

A survey of logistics skills in South Africa: Identifying logisticians of the future

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Abstract

South Africa faces major structural challenges, including an unemployment rate of 27%, which rises to 55% among youth. Although Africa's most advanced economy, it has underperformed compared to other middle-income countries, leading to a critical skills shortage, particularly in logistics. Results of this study show that while there are adequate traditional logistics skills, there is an increasing need for technologically adept logisticians due to rapid advancements, requiring expertise in data analytics, telecommunications, and environmental management. Future logisticians must understand value creation, identify market opportunities, and possess both technical and soft skills to succeed in the evolving logistics landscape.